REVENUE SECRETARIAT.

Flood Relief Measures.

ORDER NO. R. 1020-1228—R. M. 3-24-54, DATED 8TH AUGUST 1924.

During the last month the South West Monsoon was unprecedentedly strong and during the second and third weeks, there was continuously heavy rainfall in the Malnad parts of the State and in the adjoining British Territory of the Wynaad and Coorg. There were consequently high floods in all the important rivers like the Cauvery, the Hemavati, the Kapini, the Thunga and the Bhadra. The rivers rose much higher than the highest levels ever previously reached, and a considerable extent of land on either side of them became inundated. Communications were interrupted owing to erosion and submersion of roads, landslips and damages to bridges and culverts. Standing crops on the lands by the banks of rivers were washed away. In many villages, houses were flooded and a large number of them damaged or destroyed. In the early stages of the floods it was difficult to gather any definite information as regards the nature and extent of the damages, owing to the interruption of communications. With the restoration of communications, which was effected by the Executive Engineers of Districts with commendable promptitude, Government have been able to obtain fuller information, and this has already been made available to the public in the daily communiques issued by the Publicity Officer. During the last week, the Dewan toured in the affected areas of the Mysore District and the First Member of Council in parts of the Mysore and Hassan Districts. The Second Member of Council visited some of the affected areas in the Kadur and Shimoga Districts. From the information so far collected by Government, the districts that have suffered most are Mysore and Shimoga in both of which there has been extensive loss of property. In the Mysore District, the area most affected was the Kapini Valley and the towns of Nanjangud, T. Narsipur and Yedatore suffered considerable damages. The total number of houses that have collapsed in the Mysore District is estimated at 4,000, distributed among 72 villages and the total loss of property has been estimated at 3½ lakhs of rupees. A considerable portion of the town of Shimoga was flooded and 485 houses were damaged and 250 collapsed. Government desire to place on record their high appreciation of the promptitude and energy with which the District Officers and many leading non-official gentlemen took steps to afford relief to the people who were in distress and it was entirely owing to their efforts that there has been no loss of life, except one solitary instance of the death of a boy by the collapse of a house. A great deal of temporary relief has already been given to the sufferers; but in view of the magnitude of the damages caused, Government consider that the reconstruction of the affected areas should be taken up in a systematic manner and desire that prompt action should be taken on the lines indicated below.

2. *Public Works.*—Much damage has been caused to roads, bridges, anicuts, irrigation channels, tanks and public buildings. In regard to damages to roads and interruptions of communications in general, prompt action has already been taken by the Executive Engineers to execute the most urgent items of repairs and to restore com-

District classified under communications, irrigation works, public buildings, etc., with estimates of the amounts that will be required to execute the necessary repairs, which will be taken up forthwith and completed as early as possible.

In regard to damages to irrigation works and channels particularly, Government direct that immediate action should be taken by the Chief Engineer to repair them so that water may be made available for the lands as early as possible during the present cultivation season. The standing crops on a considerable extent of land including nurseries and seedlings are reported to have been washed away and it is necessary that the replanting of these areas should be carried out expeditiously. The irrigation season will have to be extended by an additional month so as to make up for the time that has already been lost. Repairs to irrigation works should be carried out urgently in anticipation of the sanction of Government. The estimates should be submitted as soon as they are prepared, but the execution of the works should not be delayed on this account.

In regard to other works, the Chief Engineer will prepare detailed estimates and submit proposals to Government regarding the amount that will be required in addition to the provision in the current year's budget.

A separate account should be maintained of all expenditure connected with repairs of damages caused by the floods. The Chief Engineer is also requested to submit to Government fortnightly reports of progress in the execution of works.

Government also consider that early steps should be taken to construct new Taluk Offices at Yedatore and T. Narsipur as the existing buildings are in great disrepair and have been seriously damaged by the floods. As regards T. Narsipur, a suitable site should be selected above the highest flood level. In regard to Yedatore, the question of constructing a new Taluk Office on the site which has already been selected above the channel on the Hunsur Road, should be taken up immediately. Arrangements should also be made to allot sites for building the new houses in this area according to the plans already prepared. The Chief Engineer is also requested to investigate the question of the protective measures that may be necessary to prevent inundations in future of the Shimoga Town and submit a report to Government with definite proposals before the end of October next.

3. *Damages to Houses.*—A large number of houses in the flooded areas have collapsed. The damages in this respect have been heaviest in the Mysore District. The condition of affairs in Shimoga Town is equally serious. The local authorities have, for the present, made temporary arrangements in most cases for giving shelter to the homeless people. Government consider that immediate steps should be taken to shift low-lying villages which are exposed to danger from floods to situations higher up, if this has not already been done. The sites for the new villages should be selected without loss of time and laid out in a proper manner, site plans being approved by the Deputy Commissioners. A well should be provided for each new village at Government cost so that the people may not be put to any inconvenience. The sites should be given free to the poor, and to others at cost price. The amount required for the purchase and lay out of the sites will be provided by Government in the first instance as an advance and the difference between the outlay incurred by Government and the amount realized by the sale of sites will be debited to the State Grant for flood relief. The Deputy Commissioners of Districts will take the necessary action for the selection and lay out of the new village sites in consultation with the Local Boards in rural areas and Municipal authorities in towns. An estimate of the amount of advance that may be required for the affected districts should be submitted to Government by the Revenue Commissioner immediately. Government consider it necessary that adequate steps should also be taken to prevent houses which have been damaged by the floods, being reconstructed on their present sites. The Local Boards and Municipalities within their areas and the Deputy Commissioners in others, will be requested to see that licenses are not issued for rebuilding such houses. The sites may, however, be left to their present owners. With a view to encourage the rapid construction of houses, Government direct that the Deputy Commissioners should arrange to open depots at suitable centres for the sale of building materials. The supplies should be obtained from the Forest Department and sold at cost price. Materials may be issued to the very poor free of cost. In urban areas like Shimoga where there has been extensive damage to houses, it has been represented

that some substantial financial aid should be given to the people so that they may rebuild their houses early in a suitable locality. In regard to such areas, Government will be prepared to advance loans to Co-operative Building Societies that may be organized. The Municipal Councils of such towns may also be requested to consider the question of providing model houses to the poor, the cost being recovered from them in a fixed number of annual instalments. If proposals in this respect are formulated, Government will be prepared to consider the grant of a part of the required amount as a loan to the Municipalities. Government have separately issued orders as regards the grant of house building advances to Government officials drawing pay not exceeding Rs. 50 per mensem, whose houses have been damaged by the floods. As regards rural areas, loans may be advanced under existing standing orders by the Amildars from the funds placed at their disposal by the Revenue Commissioner. Government are further pleased to direct that the existing concessions relating to the free grant of building materials to people who suffer losses by accidental fires be extended to cases of losses by floods also.

4. *Damages to Lands.*—Damages to lands situated by the side of rivers have been reported from all the affected Districts. Government direct that a detailed inspection of them should be promptly made by the Local Revenue Officers. Sheikdars should be required to visit each village and prepare, after inspection, a list of all the lands damaged with particulars of survey numbers, their total extent, the extent damaged, probable amount required for repairs, the names of the owners, etc. Not less than 50 per cent. of the lands should be inspected by the Amildar and not less than 25 per cent. by the Sub-Division Officer. A sketch showing the lands affected in each village should also be prepared. The lands that have suffered damage may generally be classified under one of the three following groups :—

(1) Lands which have been eroded or otherwise rendered unfit for cultivation permanently.

(2) Lands which have been filled with sand or silt and will require some expenditure to make them fit for cultivation.

(3) Lands on which the standing crops have been damaged but which may be recultivated during this reason.

As regards lands falling under the first group, their extent is not likely to be great. As regards the second group, the remedy will consist in the grant of loans for removing the sand or silt and rendering the lands fit for cultivation. A sliding scale of remissions with reference to the extent of damage and the cost of restoration may also be necessary in regard to these lands, and separate orders will be issued on this point on the receipt of information as regards the nature and extent of the damages. As regards the last class of lands, the relief required is the quick supply of seed so that the lands may be recultivated immediately. The Deputy Commissioners are requested to issue immediate orders for the inspection of lands and the collection of information on the lines indicated above. The inspection should be completed before the end of September next. As regards the supply of seed, the Director of Agriculture has already made arrangements to supply seed of a quick-growing variety of paddy to the affected owners. The seed should be given free to the poor and to others at the ordinary market rates prevailing in the locality concerned. The loss on this account, if any, may be debited to the State Grant for flood relief.

5. *Loans.*—Government have already sanctioned a sum of Rs. 22,000 for the grant of Land Improvement and Takavi Loans to persons who have suffered from the floods, in addition to the ordinary grants provided in the budget. In view of the large extent of the damages as disclosed in subsequent reports, Government are pleased to sanction an additional sum of Rs. 50,000 for granting loans. The existing rules relating to the grant of Takavi and Land Improvement Loans apply only to the occupants of Government land, but Government consider that the grant of loans should be extended to others, like shikinidars, cultivators, petty traders, labourers, artisans, inamdars, jodidars, etc. Loans may be granted to such people also, provided they offer adequate security either in the shape of property or personal security. In all such cases, a proper *mutchalika* should be taken so that in the event of non-payment, the amount might be recovered as an arrear of land revenue. Further, some relaxation is necessary as regards the terms of repayment. Government are pleased to direct that

loans given for relief to persons who have suffered losses on account of the floods be made repayable in five annual instalments, the first instalment commencing from 1926-27. The loans will carry interest at the rate of three and one-eighth per cent per annum, but the Deputy Commissioners may in their discretion grant loans free of interest, subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 in each individual case. The above concessions will be in force till the end of December 1924.

6. *Gratuitous Relief.*—Government have already sanctioned a sum of Rs. 22,000 for gratuitous relief to the poor people who have suffered losses by the floods. Arrangements have since been made to organise a Central Relief Committee and also District and Taluk Relief Committees in the affected districts, and to raise public subscriptions. The total Government grant and the amount of public subscriptions raised may be constituted into a Relief Fund. Separate instructions will be issued later regarding the administration of this fund, through the Central and District Committees and specifying the functions and the jurisdiction of these bodies in respect of relief both in Municipal and Rural areas. In the meantime, the orders of Government already issued may be continued to be carried out.

7. *Special Establishment.*—In connection with the selection of sites for shifting submerged villages, the organisation of Depots for the sale of building materials, the preparation of detailed lists of damaged lands, and all other measures of relief generally, it is necessary that some additional establishment should be given to the Amildars. Government are therefore pleased to sanction for a period of three months the establishment as noted in the margin for the several taluks affected. Only trained Sheikdars or Mojnidars should be posted for this special work so that they may be able to measure the lands and prepare proper sketches of the affected localities.

Taluk.	Sheikdars.	On Rs.
Manjangud	2	1/45+10
Hole-Narsipur	2	
Heggaddevankote	2	
Hunsur	1	
Yedatore		
Arkalgud	1	
Saklespur	1	
Koppa	1	
Mudgere	1	
Narasimharajapura	1	
Shimoga	1	
Honnali	1	
Tirthahalli	1	

8. In conclusion, Government desire to impress on all Heads of Departments and Deputy Commissioners and other District Officers the importance of taking action on the foregoing lines with the utmost possible promptitude. The efficacy of all relief measures that may be adopted will depend on the quickness and sympathy with which they are administered, and Government trust that every officer entrusted with the administration of relief measures will keep this object prominently in view. In regard to any other matters of importance on which further orders of Government may be necessary, Heads of Departments are requested to submit definite suggestions for the consideration of Government.

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